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Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 SIG-03 /021 R

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OSD/ISA:T.KEENAN
----------050253 101248Z /50
R 100524Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061765

E.O. 11652:ADS-DECLASSIFY UPON COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS

TAGS: MARR, IT, UK, FR, GW, DA, NL

SUBJECT: NATO PROJECT OPAQUE - PROJECT 7621

REFS: (A) STATE 282790 (DTG 012106Z DEC 75)
(B) STATE 056791
(C) PARIS 08262

1. REF A WAS THE ORIGINAL REQUEST FOR HOST COUNTRY CLEARANCES FOR OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF SUBJECT NATO PROJECT. REF B REQUESTED EXTENSION OF SUBJECT PROJECT THROUGH END CY 78. REF C REQUEST REPEAT OF REF A.

2. REF A IS QUOTED.

BEGIN QUOTE.
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R 012106Z DEC 75
FROM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO CSAF WASH DC/XOXXI

AFSC ANDREWS AFB MD/DOXF
AFCRL HANSCOM FIELD MA

SUBJECT: NATO PROJECT OPAQUE - AFCRL PROJECT 7621

1. AIR FORCE CAMBRIDGE RESEARCH LABORATORY (AFCRL) PLANS TO CONDUCT NATO PROJECT OPAQUE ATMOSPHERIC OPTICAL STUDIES, IAW NATO DOCUMENT AC/243 (PANEL IV/RSG.8) D/1 OF 1 AUGUST 1975. ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO ADVISE HOST GOVERNMENT OF RESEARCH DESCRIBED BELOW IN SUPPORT OF THIS AGREED AND PRESENTLY ONGOING NATO PROJECT, AND TO OBTAIN ANY REQUIRED CLEARANCES. EMBASSY PARIS ALSO REQUESTED TO SEEK GOF APPROVAL TO CONDUCT TEST FLIGHTS AND RELATED AIRFIELD SURVEY, WITH DATES TO BE PROVIDED BY AIR FORCE AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE. SPECIFIC AFCRL REQUIREMENTS FOLLOW:

2. A SURVEY TEAM OF TWO U.S. CITIZENS, ONE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN WILL VISIT FRG, DENMARK, THE NETHERLANDS AND UK IN EARLY DECEMBER 1975 FOR A PERIOD OF TWO WEEKS AND PLANS TO VISIT ITALY AND FRANCE FOR ONE WEEK BETWEEN 1 APRIL AND 30 JUNE 1976. THE TEAM WILL COMPLETE AN AIRFIELD SURVEY TO DETERMINE AIRFIELD SUPPORT FACILITIES AND DISCUSS AIR
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TRAFFIC CLEARANCE PROCEDURES FOR C-130 AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF PROJECT OPAQUE. THE BELOW LIST OF AIRFIELDS WILL BE SURVEYED TO SUPPORT SITES PREVIOUSLY INSTALLED BY THE HOST NATIONS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MEPPEN, INSTALLED BY US. THE TIME REQUIRED AT EACH SITE SHOULD NOT EXCEED 5 DAYS.

AIRFIELDS ------- OPAQUE SITE

MENINGEN, GERMANY -- BIRKHOF
SOESTERBERG, NETHERLANDS -- YPENBERG/MEPPEN
SKRYDSTRUP, DENMARK -- RODBY
MILDENHALL, ENGLAND -- CHRISTCHURCH
TRAPANI BIRSI, SICILY-- TRAPANI
EVREUX/FRAVILLE, FRANCE -- BRUZ/CELAR

IF ANY OF THE AIRFIELDS ARE UNABLE TO SUPPORT THE OPERATION OTHER FIELDS WITHIN 200 NAUTICAL MILES OF THE GROUND SITE MAY BE CONSIDERED. NIGHT OPERATIONS WILL BE REQUIRED.

3. A C-130 AIRCRAFT, USAF SERIAL NUMBER ;5-0022 WILL BE USED TO SUPPORT PROJECT OPAQUE. IT IS EQUIPPED WIYH

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PHOTOMETRIC AND METEOROLOGICAL SYSTEMS AND DATA LOGGING/
RECORDING SYSTEMS. ALL SYSTEMS ARE PASSIVE AND MEASURE
PHOTOMETRIC AND METEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS AS A FUNCTION
OF HEIGHT. NO ORDNANCE OR MISSILES ARE CARRIED AND

NOTHING WILL BE DROPPED OR SUSPENDED BENEATH THE AIRCRAFT.
FOUR DEPLOYMENTS OF THE AIRCRAFT ARE PLANNED. THE FIRST
WILL OCCUR BETWEEN 1 APRIL AND 31 MAY 1976. LATER
DEPLOYMENTS ARE PLANNED FOR 15 OCTOBER TO 15 DECEMBER
1976, 1 JULY TO 31 AUGUST 1977, AND 15 JANUARY TO 15
MARCH 1978. DURING THESE PERIODS THE AIRCRAFT WILL
OPERATE AT BOTH MEPPEN AND BIRKHOF FOR A PERIOD OF TWO
WEEKS. ALL OTHER SITES WILL BE VISITED FOR ONE WEEK
ON EACH DEPLOYMENT. THE AIRCRAFT WILL BE CREWED BY 3
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MILITARY OFFICERS, 5 ENLISTED, 1 PROJECT OFFICER, 2
PROJECT ENLISTED TECHNICIANS AND 4 CIVILIAN CONTRACTORS,
ALL US CITIZENS.

4. THE PROJECT REQUIRES A PROFILE BE FLOWN FROM NEAR THE
SURFACE TO 20,000 FEET MSL IN AN AREA SOME 50 MILES LONG
AND 5 MILES WIDE WITH DELAYS NOT TO EXCEED 15 MINUTES IN
CHANGING ALTITUDES. THE TOTAL FLYING TIME FOR EACH
MISSION WILL BE ABOUT 3 1/2 HOURS. TWO MISSIONS A DAY MAY
BE REQUIRED. SPECIFIC AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS
WILL BE EXPLORED BY THE SURVEY TEAM (PARA 2).

5. COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE GROUND CREW AND THE AIRCRAFT
WILL BE REQUIRED TO TRANSMIT TECHNICAL INFORMATION. USE
OF HF RADIO IS PLANNED FOR THIS PURPOSE. FREQUENCY
AUTHORIZATION WILLBE OBTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH AFM
100-31.

6. THIS PROJECT IS UNCLASSIFIED. PROJECT DATA WILL BE
PUBLISHED AS A TECHNICAL REPORT. DISTRIBUTION OF REPORT
WILL BE RESTRICTED TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES PARTICIPATING
IN PROJECT OPAQUE. LOCAL SCIENTISTS PARTICIPATING IN
GATHERING DATA AT THE GROUND SITES AND LOCAL OFFICIALS
ARE INVITED TO OBSERVE OR PARTICIPATE IN THE AERIAL
FLIGHTS.

7. HOST NATIONS WILL BENEFIT BY GAINING INFORMATION
CONCERNING THE OPTICAL PROPERTIES OF THE ATMOSPHERE OVER
THE OPAQUE SITE. THE INFORMATION CAN BE COMPARED TO
OTHER SITES TO OBTAIN THE VERTICAL DISTRIBUTION OF
SOME PROPERTIES AND TO DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF HAZINESS
WHICH CAUSES DEGRADATION IN PERFORMANCE OF VARIOUS
OPTICAL SYSTEMS OVER EACH COUNTRY. INGERSOLL.
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END QUOTE.
VANCE

NNN

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Message Attributes

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